

Post 12/12/72

R. O. Canada, Retired Admiral

Retired Navy Rear Adm. Robert O. Canada, 59, former commanding officer of the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, died Dec. 5 in Tokyo after suffering a heart attack while on vacation there.

Adm. Canada had been in command of the center from 1967 until retirement in 1969. Earlier he had been commanding officer of the Bethesda Naval Hospital and Deputy Surgeon General of the Navy.

Born in Grottoes, Va., he was a graduate of the University of Virginia and its medical school. He entered the Navy Medical Corps in 1938.

Adm. Canada was medical officer on the USS Salinas when it was torpedoed off Iceland by a German submarine on Oct. 30, 1941.

During the early part of World War II, he was in charge of the naval unit at Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver. Later, he was senior medical officer on the USS Pasadena, which participated in the Leyte and Luzon operations in the Pacific, the assault on Iwo Jima and operations against Okinawa and Japan.

After the war, Adm. Canada served as head of the tuberculosis control section of the

Navy's bureau of medicine and surgery. He also had been head of the chest disease section at the Bethesda Naval Hospital.

A pioneer in the antibiotic treatment of tuberculosis, he had specialized in pulmonary diseases. He was certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and the American College of Chest Physicians, was a fellow of the American College of Physicians and a member of the Clinical Climatological Medi-

cal Society, American Thoracic Society and the American Medical Association.

Since retirement, Adm. Canada was with the medical clinic at the Greenbrier Hotel in White Sulphur Springs, W.Va.

He is survived by his wife, Julia Salter Canada, of the home, Lewisburg, W.Va.; a son, Robert O. Canada III, of Utica, N.Y.; his mother, Mrs. Robert O. Canada Sr., of Grottoes, and a sister, Mrs. John O'Donnell, of Orlando, Fla.